

Advice note for pre-registration inspections of all types of academies and free schools/studio schools/university technical colleges (UTC)

School name	Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Temple Grove Free School
DfE registration number	1489
Unique reference number (URN)	N/A
Inspection number	422399
Inspection dates	20 June 2013
Reporting inspector	Susan Jackson

Information about the inspection

This inspection was conducted by Ofsted at the request of the registration authority for independent schools. It was carried out under section 99 of the Education and Skills Act 2008.¹

Context of the school

The proposed Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Temple Grove (HTG) Free School is the latest addition to the Haberdashers' family of schools. The Haberdashers' Aske's Federation includes three all-through academies, providing for 4,000 children across the boroughs of Bexley and Lewisham. The Free School is to be located on the site of one of these academies, the all-through Hatcham College, which is situated on Pepys Road in New Cross, Lewisham. The Free School will be accommodated in existing classrooms until April 2014 when it will move to new purpose-built premises within the grounds of Hatcham College. The sponsors of the Free School are the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers and the Temple Grove Trust. The school, which is due to open on 28 August 2013, has applied to be registered to admit up to 420 boys and girls in the age range four to 11 years. It will admit students into Reception only in its first year. There are 60 students registered for enrolment in August 2013, representing two classes of 30 children. None of these students currently have statements of special educational needs, but the school will be non-selective and is prepared to admit students with special educational needs. The school aims to 'provide each student with the opportunity to excel' through a curriculum that is 'relevant and stretching'. The Free School curriculum will be based on the International Primary Curriculum and will be taught in English and German. This curriculum has already been applied successfully in the primary phase of Hatcham College. The Haberdashers' Aske's Federation is affiliated to the Church of England.

Compliance with the regulations

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

The school is likely to meet all of the regulations, but implementation could not be seen. The school's behaviour and anti-bullying policies set out a framework within which students will be encouraged to demonstrate the best standards of behaviour based on the Federation's values of 'mutual respect, self-discipline and self-confidence'. There are established strategies in place for tackling any discriminatory or oppressive behaviour.

The school's policy for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students sets out a vision for students to become confident individuals and to appreciate their own worth and that of others. A range of opportunities is planned

¹ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/25/section/99

for both inside and outside the classroom to enable students to engage in team work, to be reliable and helpful to their peers and to make a positive contribution to wider society. Planned provision also includes: encouraging students to respect different beliefs and opinions; developing the ability to distinguish between right and wrong; acquiring an insight into the workings of civil law; developing respect for the needs, interests and feelings of others; and providing a general knowledge of local institutions such as the library and the church. Each year, students will also be involved in three cross-phase personal, social, health and citizenship education days with Hatcham College, which will be supported by visitors and outside agencies.

The Federation has ensured that the planned curriculum, including provision for students' personal development, is free from partisan political or religious views and that, where any political issues are discussed, a balanced view will always be presented. Specific reference is to be made to anti-extremism requirements in the information for staff.

Welfare, health and safety of pupils

Documentary evidence indicates that all the regulations are likely to be met, but implementation could not be seen. Required policy documents have been produced, including comprehensive policies for safeguarding, safer recruitment, behaviour management, anti-bullying and first aid. Senior staff have been trained in safe recruitment and the principles have been applied effectively to the recruitment process to date. The Federation has a well-established policy in place covering the employment of supply staff and volunteers, and there is a designated person in place to oversee their recruitment.

The Principal Designate, who is a member of staff at Hatcham College, is trained in child protection to the required level and arrangements are in place for training other staff before the school opens. The Federation is committed to ensuring that all students are protected at all times. Sufficient resources and time have been allocated to allow the designated officer and staff to discharge their safeguarding responsibilities. The school has a written child protection policy and procedures are in accordance with locally agreed inter-agency procedures.

Staff on site are trained to take responsibility for first aid and have suitable access to first aid kits. A first aid policy gives clear guidance on the expected code of practice. There is planned provision for the effective supervision of children on site, and the ratio of qualified staff to children will meet the welfare requirements of the Statutory Framework for Early Years Foundation Stage.

All requirements are likely to be met in terms of policies and procedures for health and safety, and for fire safety. The fire safety risk assessments, already conducted by the fire authority and covering the accommodation to be used by the Reception classes between August 2013 and April 2014, are to be further reviewed before the classrooms are occupied.

Admission and attendance registers will be maintained electronically and their formats meet requirements. The school's Equalities Plan makes a commitment to providing equality of access for disabled students and increasing accessibility as part of the required three-year plan.

Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors

The school's procedures for the completion of required checks on the suitability of members of the proprietorial body meet all regulations. Scrutiny of a sample of staff files demonstrated that safe recruitment procedures have been followed rigorously in practice. Required checks have been completed for the proprietors and for staff appointed to date, and recorded on a single central register, which is kept in legible form. The register is updated promptly as new staff are appointed. All the required checks are in place should supply staff be appointed.

Premises of and accommodation at the school

The new building, which is planned to be operative from April 2014, is likely to meet all the regulations. Detailed plans for the premises and accommodation were scrutinised and a discussion held with the Federation's project manager responsible for building projects. One of the existing Hatcham College buildings is to be demolished and a new school will be constructed on this footprint and in other allocated space on the Hatcham College site. Work has not yet commenced on the new building. On a temporary basis the Reception classes will be accommodated in classrooms in the current Hatcham College primary phase premises.

Initially, students will be admitted only into Reception. There are two alternative premises which have been identified for use by the Reception classrooms. The first-choice premises are currently used for delivery of the Reception curriculum at Hatcham College and meet all requirements. These premises will be occupied by the Free School pupils if they are vacated in time. Hatcham College primary phase students will be moving to a new school on an alternative site in New Cross as soon as the construction work on that site is completed. The second-choice premises are currently used as general classrooms and will need to be remodelled for use by the Reception classes. The current general classrooms are of adequate size but lack direct access to the play area, suitable en-suite lavatories and washing facilities, and facilities for medical care. Suitable plans are in place for work to remedy these deficiencies to be undertaken over the summer if it is necessary to use this accommodation.

New furniture and resources are being ordered in readiness for the opening of the school in April 2013. An early consignment of furniture will be in place for use in the general classrooms, if required, in the interim. There are appropriate facilities for the preparation and serving of food on the existing Hatcham College site, and this has been well planned for in the new building. The school will make suitable provision for drinking water in the temporary accommodation, and accessible water fountains have been included in the designs for the new building.

Acoustics, ventilation, sound insulation and internal and external lighting are appropriate in the temporary classrooms, and have been well provided for in the plans for the new school.

The temporary accommodation will be adjacent to a safe outside space for play and recreation, although an access point will need to be provided if the general classrooms are to be used. The new school will include a series of outdoor spaces, including a Reception play space, an outdoor learning space and a woodland nature garden. Students will also have access to the Federation's offsite playing fields. The buildings and access points to the current grounds are fully secure, and security arrangements have been carefully planned to meet requirements in the new building.

Provision of information

The provision is likely to meet all the regulations. The school has a website and is committed to sharing particulars of policies and procedures with parents.

Manner in which complaints are to be handled

The school is likely to meet all the regulations. There is an acceptable written complaints procedure in place which will be made available to parents.

Recommendation to the Department for Education

Registration

Is registration recommended?

YES. The school can be registered and allowed to open.

Recommended number of day pupils: 420

Recommended age range: 4 to 11 years

Recommended gender of pupils: mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: not applicable.